From: perf@memberclicks-mail.net on behalf of PERF Daily Clips
To: edemestihas@bakersfieldpd.us
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GUN REGULATIONS

Pittsburgh Tribune: Pittsburgh City Council approves controversial gun ban

Pittsburgh City Council on Tuesday voted to approve a package of controversial bills aimed at banning certain weapons in the city and keeping guns out of the hands of people deemed public threats. Council voted 6-3 to send the bills to the desk of Mayor Bill Peduto, who said he would sign them.

DNA

New York Times: DNA is solving dozens of cold cases. Sometimes it's too late for justice.

The increasing use of DNA and genetic genealogy has given new momentum to solving cold cases in the United States, from the arrest of the Golden State Killer suspect, Joseph James DeAngelo, 73, in California last year to the announcement in Alabama last month that Coley McCraney, 45, had been charged with raping and murdering two teenagers. With such arrests, questions that have vexed investigators and haunted families for decades seem closer to being resolved. Suspects suddenly have a public face, peering out of mug shots. Some appear in handcuffs in courtrooms, making it possible there could be an understanding of the seemingly unanswerable question - why did they do it? But for some families the technology comes too late.

CYBERCRIME

ProPublica: Prosecutors dropping child porn charges after software tools are questioned

At a time when at least half a million laptops, tablets, phones and other devices are viewing or sharing child pornography on the internet every month, software that tracks images to specific internet connections has become a vital tool for prosecutors. Increasingly, though, it's backfiring. Drawing upon thousands of pages of court filings as well as interviews with lawyers and experts, ProPublica found more than a dozen cases since 2011 that were dismissed either because of challenges to the software's findings, or the refusal by the government or the maker to share the computer programs with defense attorneys, or both.

BAIL

NJ.com: N.J.'s bail reform did not cause a spike in crime, report says. But the program is going broke.

Starting in 2017, New Jersey all but eliminated cash bail, moving instead to a system where judges can order defendants jailed based in part on a risk assessment that weighs the suspect's criminal history and the charges they face. Critics of the new system - including some local police and prosecutors, as well as the bail bonds industry, which lost the vast majority of its business due to the change - said it would lead to more crime. The report acknowledges slight increases in the rate of people charged with new crimes while awaiting trial and the rate of people who failed to show up for court dates. But those numbers also coincided with an overall decline in the state's crime rate, according to FBI and State Police data.

TECHNOLOGY

Quartz: AI experts are calling on Amazon to stop selling facial recognition to law enforcement

More than two dozen AI experts are calling for Amazon to stop selling facial recognition software to law enforcement until legislation and oversight is put in place. The letter claims that Amazon's general manager of AI, Matthew Wood, and vice president of global public policy Michael Punke misrepresented technical aspects of research that suggests Amazon's facial recognition is less accurate on women and people of color in a company blog post.

UNITED KINGDOM

Reuters: Jury fail to reach verdict on police chief accused over UK deadly soccer stadium crush

A jury at the trial of a former police chief in charge of operations at the 1989 Hillsborough soccer stadium crush that killed 96 Liverpool supporters failed on Wednesday to reach a verdict on whether he was guilty of manslaughter.

OFFICER WELLNESS

NYPD Press Release: Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention Symposium

The New York City Police Department and the Police Executive Research Forum held an international Law Enforcement Suicide Prevention Symposium at Police Headquarters. This event brought together more than 300 researchers, subject matter experts, and law enforcement personnel from across the world to address the topic of suicide in law enforcement.

POLICE EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

San Francisco Chronicle: BART Police Chief Carlos Rojas to retire from the transit agency next month

BART Police Chief Carlos Rojas will retire from the transit agency on May 6, General Manager Grace Crunican said on Tuesday. Rojas, 50, arrived at BART two years ago from the Santa Ana Police Department, where he had been chief for five years after serving as an officer since 1990.

Register for the PERF Annual Meeting, May 28-31 in Miami Beach

PERF will once again hold its Annual Meeting in conjunction with the conferences of the Major Cities Chiefs Association and the FBI National Executive Institute Associates. All registrants will be welcome to attend all meetings, sessions and events sponsored by PERF, MCCA, and NEIA during the Annual Meeting. Click on the headline above for more information.

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Police Executive Research Forum · 1120 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 930, Washington, District of Columbia 20036, United States

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